

SFM Co-Sponsored Terrorism Response Training Program Nears Completion

Thanks to a grant approved by Governor Gray Davis, California will soon have a standardized training curriculum for responding to a terrorist attack in California.

First Responder Operations: Terrorism Consequence Management is a comprehensive 16-hour course designed to train firefighters and paramedics on the proper first response to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) attacks and other terrorist threats.

The curriculum is being developed by the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee (CFFJAC), the labor-management partnership co-sponsored by the State Fire Marshal and California Professional Firefighters. It is financed by a \$1 million allocation by Governor Davis from the Workforce Investment Act 15% Discretionary Fund.

"In the aftermath of September 11th, it is vital that California's response to a terrorist attack be swift, decisive and coordinated," said State Fire Marshal John Tennant. "The governor's strong commitment to public safety makes it possible for the CFFJAC to draft a curriculum that will serve as a model for other states to follow."

The grant tasks the CFFJAC to synthesize a range of individual resources into a standardized training curriculum. By using resource materials from the Department of Justice, FEMA, OES and the International Association of Fire Fighters, the instructional design team is developing a curriculum that provides standardized training statewide. Mutual Aid responders will talk the same language and perform the same tasks and behaviors.

Tennant joined California Professional Firefighters President Dan Terry and the rest of the CFFJAC Board late last month in reviewing the course outline. They also received a progress report from the instructional design team and offered their own recommendations for the curriculum. The Board unanimously approved the course outline and is extremely pleased with the direction of the grant.

"This is a great project and you can count on the support of our department," commented Reginald Garcia, Chief of the Berkeley Fire Department.

Because it is a labor-management collaboration, the CFFJAC is uniquely positioned to ensure full collaboration among all the stakeholders throughout the state. Tennant said the State Fire Marshal will join California Professional Firefighters, the California Fire Chiefs Association, Metro Chiefs, the State Office of Emergency Services, State Training Officers, and EMS committees in working for the swift completion and adoption of *First Response Operations: Terrorism Consequence Management* as a new terrorism response training standard.

"Thanks to the governor's WIA grant, California fire departments an effective and efficient means to train firefighter in terrorism response," said Tennant. "It will ensure that the courageous men and women who answer the call when disaster strikes will have the training they need to protect their safety and that of the public."